THE Votes and Orders

Of the

Honorable Houſe of Commons,

Paſſed *February* 25, & 26. 1662.

Upon Reading His Majeſties Gracious

DECLARATION & SPEECH:

Together with their

Reaſons and Addreſs,

Humbly preſented to His Majeſty

(The whole Houſe preſent)

By their Speaker Sir *Edward Turner*, Knight & Baronet,

On *Saturday, Feb.* 28. in the Banquetting-Houſe at *Whitehall.*

With his Speech at the delivery thereof;

And his Report of the Subſtance of His *Majeſties gracious Anſwer thereunto.*

London, Printed by *John Bill* and *Chriſtopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Maieſty, 1662.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

THE Votes & Orders

Of the

Honourable Houſe of Commons paſſed Febr. 25. & 26. 1662. upon reading His Majeſties Gracious Declaration and Speech, &c.

THe honourable Houſe of Commons having apppointed *Wedneſday* the 25. of this Moneth for the reading his Majeſties Gracious Declaration of the ſix and twentieth of *December* laſt, and his Speech made at the opening of this Seſſion; and the ſame being then read and taken into mature debate and conſideration; The Houſe proceeded to paſs theſe Votes and Orders following, *viz.*

Mercurii 25. *Feb.* 15. Car. R.

Upon Conſideration had by the Houſe, of the Kings Majeſties Declaration and Speech,

Reſolved upon the Queſtion, *nemine contradicente*,

That the humble thanks of this Houſe be returned to the Kings Majeſty, for his conſtancy in the Obſervation of the Act of Indempnity.

Reſolved, &c. *nemine contradicente*,

That the humble thanks of this Houſe be returned to the Kings Majeſty, for His Profeſsion againſt Introducing a Government by a Military Power.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente*,

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to his Majesty for his gracious Invitation to this House to prepare some Laws against the growth and progress of Popery.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente*,

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to his Majesty, for his Resolution to maintain the Act of Uniformity.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente*,

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to his Majesty for his Gracious recommendations to this House to prepare Laws against Licentiousness and Impiety, and also to provide Sumptuary Laws, and Laws for the Advance of Trade, and for his Majesties gracious Expressions to retrench the Charge and Expences in his own Family.

Resolved, &c.

That it be presented to the Kings Majesty as the humble Advice of this House, That no Indulgence be granted to the Dissenters from the Act of Uniformity.

Ordered,

That a Committee be appointed to collect and bring in the Reasons of this House for this Vote upon the present Debate, to be presented to his Majesty; and that the nominating of the Committee be adjourned till to morrow morning.

Jovis

Jovis 26. *Feb.* 15. Car. R.

Reſolved, &c.

That in the cloſe of the Reaſons to be preſented to His Majeſty for the Vote of Advice; it be alſo added, That this Houſe will aſsiſt His Majeſty with their Lives and Fortunes, and That the Committee appointed to bring in the Reaſons do pen an Addreſs for that purpoſe to His Majeſty.

And the Committee appointed to bring in the Reaſons and Addreſs before directed, having met, and agreed the ſame, Sir *Heneage Finch*, His Majeſties Solicitor General, made Report thereof to the Houſe on Fryday the Twenty ſeventh of this Month, and the ſame being twice read, and ſome ſmall Amendments and Additions made thereto, and the Reaſons and Addreſs ſo agreed, ordered to be fair written.

A Meſſage was ſent to His Majeſty by Sir *William Compton* and others of His Majeſties Privy Councel, Members of the Houſe, to deſire leave of His Majeſty, that the Houſe might wait on him at ſuch time and place as His Majeſty ſhould appoint.

And His Majeſty being attended, Sir *William Compton* on Saturday made report, That His Majeſty did moſt graciouſly receive the Meſſage, as He did all things that came from that Houſe, and to teſtifie he did ſo, had appointed the ſhorteſt time He could to be attended, which was this preſent Saturday, at Three of the clock in the afternoon, in the *Banquetting-houſe* at *Whitehall*: and the Houſe thereupon adjourning till Two of the Clock in the afternoon, and being then met again, Mr. *Speaker* with the whole Houſe went from thence to *Whitehall* to attend His Majeſty, and Mr. *Speaker* delivered himſelf in manner following.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

THe Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the Commons House of Parliament, did with great joy receive Your Majesties most Gracious Speech, at the opening this Session of Parliament: And being thereby invited to consider of Your Declaration of the Twenty-sixth of December *last; they have with all Sobriety, Duty, and Affection, examined the grounds thereof; and do by me present unto Your Majesty, their most hearty Thanks for the same, and humble Advice thereupon; both which, I do beseech Your Majesty that You will vouchsafe me to deliver in their own words.*

May it please Your most Excellent Majesty,

WE your Majesties most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled, having with all Fidelity and Obedience considered of the several Matters comprised in Your Majesties late Gracious Declaration of the 26th of *December* last, and Your most Gracious Speech at the beginning of this present Session:

Do, in the first place for our selves, and in the

the names of all the Commons of *England*, render to Your Sacred Majeſty, the Tribute of our moſt hearty Thanks, for that infinite Grace and Goodneſs, wherewith Your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to Publiſh Your Royal Intentions of adhering to Your Act of Indempnity and Oblivion, by a Conſtant and Religious Obſervance of it. And our hearts are further enlarged in theſe returns of Thankſgivings, when we conſider Your Majeſties moſt Princely and Heroick Profeſſions of relying upon the Affections of Your People, and abhorring all ſort of Military and Arbitrary Rule. But above all, We can never enough remember, to the Honour of Your Majeſties Piety, and our own unſpeakable Comfort, thoſe ſolemn and moſt endearing Invitations of us Your Majeſties Subjects, to prepare Laws to be preſented to Your Majeſty, againſt the growth and increaſe of Popery; and withal, to provide more Laws againſt Licentiouſneſs and Impiety; at the ſame time Declaring Your own Reſolutions for maintaining the Act of Uniformity. And it becomes us always to acknowledge and admire Your Majeſties Wiſdom in this Your Declaration, whereby Your Majeſty is pleaſed to reſolve, not only by Sumptuary Laws, but by Your own Royal Example of Frugality, to reſtrain that exceſs in mens Expenſes,

penſes; which is grown ſo general and ſo exorbitant; and to direct our Endeavours to find out fit and proper Laws for Advancement of Trade and Commerce.

After all this we moſt humbly beſeech Your Majeſty to believe, That it is with extream unwillingneſs and reluctancy of heart, that we are brought to differ from any thing which Your Majeſty hath thought fit to propoſe; And though we do no way doubt, but that the unreaſonable Diſtempers of mens ſpirits, and the many Mutinies and Conſpiracies which were carried on, during the late Intervals of Parliament, did reaſonably incline Your Majeſty to endeavour by Your Declaration to give ſome allay to thoſe ill humours, till the Parliament Aſſembled; and the hopes of Indulgence, if the Parliament ſhould conſent to it, eſpecially ſeeing the pretenders to this Indulgence, did ſeem to make ſome titles to it, by vertue of Your Majeſties Declaration from *Breda*. Nevertheleſs, we Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, who are now returned to ſerve in Parliament, from thoſe ſeveral parts and places of Your Kingdom, for which we were choſen, Do humbly offer to Your Majeſties great Wiſdom, That it is in no ſort adviſable that there be any Indulgence to ſuch perſons who preſume to diſſent from the Act of Uniformity, and the Religion eſtabliſhed, *For*

For these Reasons,

WE have considered the nature of Your Majesties Declaration from *Breda*, and are humbly of opinion, That Your Majesty ought not to be pressed with it any further;

Because it is not a Promise in it self, but only a Gracious Declaration of Your Majesties Intentions, to do what in You lay, and what a Parliament should advise Your Majestie to do; and no such Advice was ever given, or thought fit to be offered; nor could it be otherwise understood, because there were Laws of Uniformity then in being, which could not be dispensed with, but by Act of Parliament.

They who do pretend a Right to that supposed Promise, put the Right into the hands of their Representatives, whom they chose to serve for them in this Parliament, who have Passed, and Your Majestie consented to the Act of Uniformity. If any shall presume to say, that a Right to the benefit of this Declaration doth still remain after this Act Passed,

It tends to dissolve the very Bonds of Government, and to suppose a disability in Your Majesty and the Houses of Parliament, to make a Law contrary to any part of Your

Majesties Declaration, though both Houses should advise Your Majestie to it.

We have also considered the nature of the Indulgence Proposed, with reference to those Consequences, which must necessarily attend it.

It will establish Schism by a Law, and make the whole Government of the Church Precarious, and the Censures of it of no Moment or Consideration at all.

It will no way become the Gravity or Wisdom of a Parliament, to pass a Law at one Session for Uniformity, and at the next Session (the reasons of Uniformity continuing still the same) to pass another Law to frustrate or weaken the execution of it.

It will expose Your Majesty to the restless Importunity of every Sect or Opinion, and of every single person also, who shall presume to dissent from the Church of *England*.

It will be a cause of increasing Sects and Sectaries, whose numbers will weaken the true Protestant Profession so far, that it will at least be difficult for it, to defend it self against them: And, which is yet further considerable, those Numbers, which by being troublesom to the Government, finde they can arrive to an Indulgence, will, as their numbers increase, be yet more troublesom, that so at length they may arrive to a general Toleration, which

Your

Your Majeſty hath declared againſt; and in time, ſome prevalent Sect, will at laſt contend for an eſtabliſhment; which, for ought can be foreſeen, may end in Popery.

It is a thing altogether without Precedent, and will take away all means of convicting Recuſants, and be inconſiſtent with the method and proceedings of the Laws of *England*.

Laſtly, It is humbly conceived, that the Indulgence propoſed will be ſo far from tending to the Peace of the Kingdom, that it is rather likely to occaſion great diſturbance. And on the contrary, That the aſſerting of the Laws, and the Religion eſtabliſht, according to the Act of Uniformity, is the moſt probable means to produce a ſetled Peace and Obedience throughout Your Kingdom: Becauſe the variety of Profeſſions in Religion, when openly indulged, doth directly diſtinguiſh men into parties, and withal gives them opportunity to count their numbers; which, conſidering the animoſities, that out of a Religious Pride will be kept on foot by the ſeveral Factions, doth tend directly and inevitably to open diſturbance. Nor can Your Majeſty have any Security, that the Doctrine or Worſhip of the ſeveral Factions, which are all Governed by a ſeveral Rule, ſhall be conſiſtent with the Peace of Your Kingdom.

And

And if any persons shall presume to disturb the Peace of the Kingdom, We do in all humility declare, that we will for ever, and in all Occasions, be ready with our utmost endeavour and assistance, to adhere to, and serve your Majesty according to our bounden Duty and Allegiance.

The Speakers Report of the Substance of His Majesties Gracious Answer.

THat His Majesty gave them hearty Thanks for their many Thanks; That never any King was so happy in a House of Commons, as He in this; That the Paper and Reasons were long, and therefore He would take time to consider of them, and send them a message; That they could never differ but in Judgment, and that must be, when He did not rightly express Himself; or they did not rightly understand Him; but their Interest was so far linkt together, that they could never disagree.

LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill*, and *Christopher Barker*,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent
MAJESTY, 1662.